[24th September 1947

Quota of cloth for the Province.

* 69 *Q.*—Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the Provincial quotas of cloth were fixed;

(*b*) what the basis was on which these quotas were arrived at;

(*c*) whether the increase in population since 1941 Census has been taken into account and if so, whether increased quota of cloth has been since assigned;

(*d*) whether there has been a reduction in quota per capita since the original quota was fixed and if so, what the reasons for such reduction are;

(*e*) whether the Government were consulted before any reduction was made;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that in fixing the quota per capita the handloom cloth produced in the province has also been taken into account;

(*g*) what the considerations are on which the cloth ration of five yards per adult and two yards per child has been fixed;

(*h*) whether the Government expect the remaining per capita quota to be made up of handloom cloth;

(*i*) what steps are proposed to be taken to ensure adequate supplies of handloom cloth at comparatively reasonable prices; and

(*j*) whether it is a fact that there is great disparity in the prices of mill and handloom cloth?

The Hon. Sri H. SITARAMA REDDI:—" (*a*) The Provincial quotas of cloth were fixed by the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, by about the middle of 1945 and they were given effect to from November 1945.

" (*b*) No official information from the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, was received indicating the basis on which these quotas were fixed.

" (*c*) The increase in the population since the census of 1941 has been taken into account and an increased quota of cloth has been allotted to this Province on the assumption that the population of India has risen from 385 millions in 1941 to 415 millions in the present year.

" (*d*) & (*e*) Under the All-India Cloth distribution scheme this Province was allowed cotton cloth at 10 yards per capita till October 1945 and the per capita allotment to this Province was subsequently fixed at 12 yards with effect from November 1945. But owing to a fall in the production of cloth, the original per capita allotment was reduced by 10 per cent for all areas in India with effect from 1st June 1946, and the per capita allowance for this Province was thus reduced to 10·8 yards from that date. The revision of the per capita allotments was discussed at the All-India Ministers' Conference at New Delhi in January 1947 and this Government were

among the majority who urged for a uniform flat per capita allotment for all Provinces and States with the exception of Baluchistan and North-West Frontier Province. But the Central Government maintained the scheme of differential allotments and awarded 10 yards per capita for this Province from 1st January 1947. The Government of Madras have again addressed the Central Government to increase their quota.

"(f) Yes.

"(g) The ration of five yards per adult and two yards per child was fixed at a time when the per capita allowance stood at 10·8 yards, as shown in the statement [a] placed on the table of the House.

"(h) The balance of per capita allotment not provided for in the form of mill cloth under the Rationing Scheme is to be made up of handloom cloth.

"(i) The Government have promulgated the Madras Handloom Cloth (Control) Order, 1947. Proposals for the fixation of maximum wages of weavers and for the employment of stamping inspectors are under the consideration of the Government. As soon as these proposals are sanctioned, the price control provisions of the order will be brought into force and this will bring down the prices to reasonable levels. The supplies of handloom cloth are adequate.

"(j) At present the price of handloom cloth is about 2½ to 3 times that of mill cloth of approximately the same quality. The Government hope that when the price control provisions of the Madras Handloom Cloth (Control) Order, 1947, are brought into force, the price of handloom cloth will be a little less than twice the price of similar mill cloth."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister why there has been delay in giving effect to this Handloom Cloth Control Order?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Some representations were made that the order need not be implemented and they were examined and therefore there was some delay in this matter. Now the Government is examining the question and they expect to implement the order very soon."

Extra posts created in the Industries Department.

* 70 Q.—SRI L. SUBBARAMA REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) the number of extra posts created since May 1946 in each section of the Industries Department;

(b) the nature of the work discharged by them; and

(c) whether the Government has made the necessary facilities for the progress of the work of the said officers?

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a Printed as Appendix IV on page 355 infra.